

The Bahá'í faith, founded nearly 150 years ago, is among the fastest-growing of the world's religions. Its landmark North American temple graces our Wilmette shoreline. I am deeply concerned with the persecution against the 350,000-member Bahá'í community of Iran. The Ayatollah recently instructed his intelligence services to identify all Iranian Bahá'ís and collect any and all information about their activities. The Anti-Defamation League recently compared these instructions to "steps taken against Jews in Europe" in the 1930s. Further, over the past 18 months, Iranian security forces have been imprisoning Bahá'ís without charges and Bahá'í youth in Iran have been denied access to universities.

Today I introduced House Concurrent Resolution 415 with Congressman Tom Lantos (D-CA). This resolution condemns the Ayatollahs's actions and calls for protection of the religious freedom of all of Iran's religious minorities. Every Baha'i in the world, from the shores of Lake Michigan to the shores of the Caspian Sea should worship free from persecution.

